Magistrate or Commissioner of Police, if he thinks it necessary or expedient so to do in public interest, may, by Order, prohibit any Cable Operator from transmitting or re-transmitting any programme or Channel if it is not in conformity with the prescribed Advertising Code. Further, under Section 20 of Cable Television Act, Central Government has also constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee wherein Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is also represented, to look into violations of the Advertising Code by various TV Channels either *suo-moto* or on receipt of specific complaints.

As regards Print Media, Press in India is free from Government control. However, Press Council of India (PCI), a statutory autonomous body set up under Press Council Act, 1978, strives to ensure that Newspapers, News Agencies and Journalists maintain high standard of public taste and foster due sense of both the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. Press Council of India has prescribed norms that no advertisement shall be published which promotes directly or indirectly, production, sale or consumption of cigarette, tobacco products, wine, alcohol, liquor and other intoxicants.

Publishing foreign newspapers

1260. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to enact legislation to tighten laws to restrict foreign newspapers from being published in India;

(b) whether his Ministry has taken notice of the recent controversy over the international Herald Tribune's publishing activities from Hyderabad by Indian media;

(c) whether Government have also decided to come out with a law to strengthen its guidelines for FDI in print media; and

(d) if so, by when this legislation is likely to be introduced and whether all the parties have agreed for banning registration of foreign papers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) The Government is contemplating legislation in the matter.

(d) The matter is under examination.

Upgradation of radio stations in Orissa

1261. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Orissa has made a proposal for upgradation of radio stations at Berhampur in Ganjam Distt. and Sambalpur to enable the Oriya speaking population of the adjoining areas to listen to the Oriya programmes;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some of LPTs in the State are not functioning properly on account of shortage of staff;

(c) if so, whether the Centre has taken appropriate action in the matter to upgrade the radio stations and fill up the vacant posts; and

(d) if not, the time-frame within which it would be done?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) All the LPTs in Orissa are reported to be functioning properly with the exception of one LPT which is relaying partial transmission due to non availability of adequate staff.

(c) and (d) 20 KW MW Radio Station at AIR Sambalpur has been upgraded to 100 KW MW Station on 14.07.1998 to provide adequate radio coverage in Sambalpur and adjoining areas comprising major parts of Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Sonepur, Bolangir and Baudh districts. It also provides coverage in parts of Bilaspur, Saraipalli, Raigarh and Ambikapur districts of Chhattisgarh. Necessary action is being taken to fill-up the vacant posts as per guidelines.